

Future defense systems changed by low-cost nodes

by *Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently awarded a \$2,296,500 contract to Sensor.Com of Santa Monica, Calif., for development of wireless sensor technology.

Under terms of the three-year contract, Sensor.Com will develop test-bed nodes in the sensors area for use by other Air Force contractors.

“Future defense systems will be fundamentally changed by low-cost devices that are deeply and widely distributed in environments and integrated into assets for continuous, global monitoring and control for battlefield surveillance, security, environmental status and condition based maintenance,” said Gerald B. Leppert, program manager in the

directorate’s Information Grid Division.

“The objective of the Sensor.Com effort is to design and integrate a low-cost kit for test-bed experiments of real-time multi-sensor systems, as well as developing software for hosting and managing applications of these kits,” Leppert said. “These next-generation sensor prototyping kits will require the development and integration of platforms with wireless communications, as well as Global Positioning System’s central processing units memory that is remotely configurable.” @